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NOFORN  
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EO 12958 DECL: 12/22/2019  
TAGS MARR, MCAP, MOPS, PARM, PINR, PREL, PTER, MASS  
SUBJECT: USG POLICY TOWARD YEMENI ARMS ACQUISITIONS

REF: SANAA 002208

Classified By: NEA/ARP Director Andrew W. Steinfeld for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraphs 6-8.

12. (S/NF) SUMMARY: We have received reports of an arms deal between the Yemeni Ministry of Defense and what is believed to be a front company

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BACKGROUND  
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13. (S/NF) Intelligence reporting indicates that in early October the Yemeni Ministry of Defense signed a weapons deal with , for \$95 million in early October 2009, to be delivered by early January 2010. The scheduled delivery will include small arms ammunition, heavy , both named in the contract, are linked to Serbian arms broker Slobodan Tesic, and that Tesic has made frequent trips to Yemen in the past year (S/NF) We have learned through sensitive reporting that Yemen may be pursuing sizable arms deals with several other Eastern European countries

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OBJECTIVES  
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14. (S) Posts should seek to:  
--Ascertain whether the Yemen Government is dealing with Slobodan Tesic.  
--Discourage Yemen from working with individuals designated by United Nations travel bans.  
--Note USG concerns about a possible small arms buildup in Yemen.

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ACTION REQUEST / TALKING POINTS  
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15. (S) Post is requested to demarche host governments at the highest appropriate level to convey the following points to all action addressees  
BEGIN TALKING POINTS  
SECRET/REL YEMEN

-- The United States understands that you might be using a Serbian arms broker connected to Slobodan Tesic to procure arms.  
-- If this is true, you should know that Tesic is designated under a travel ban under UNSCR 1521 for his assistance in providing arms to Liberia.  
-- We would discourage your government from working with this individual, due to his UN designation and history of disreputable arms deals.  
-- In addition, it has been our understanding that, since 2005, your government was no longer using arms brokers to procure weapons for your military.  
--While we recognize your right to acquire arms for your legitimate defense needs, we have concerns that any arms in excess of your requirement

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END TALKING POINTS  
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REPORTING REQUIREMENT  
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16. (U) Post is asked to report results of its efforts.

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POINTS OF CONTACT  
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17. (U) Washington points of contact for follow-up are XXXXXXXXXXXX , ISN/CATR and XXXXXXXXXXXX , NEA/ARP.

18. (U) Department thanks post for its assistance. Please slug all responses for ISN, NEA, and T. CLINTON